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ABSTRACT

The minutes of the Conference, recording the place, date, attendance, election of officers, agenda, and summaries of major speeches, comprise this document. Adopted resolutions and relevant discussions are presented. These include: (1) guidelines for regional and national actions aimed at improving the status of women; (2) short-term measures to promote the integration of women in development; (3) integration of rural women into development; (4) peace in Central America for the integration of women into development: (5) preservation of peace in the region; (6) continuation of activities to promote the integration of women into development beyond the end of the United Nations Decade for Women; (7) future of the voluntary fund for the United Nations Decade for Women; (8) coordinators of women's programs in the Mexico/Central America/Cuba subregion and at the Caribbean subregion; (9) women's contribution to family income; (10) financial and technical support for specific programs; (11) review of educational texts and programs, and (12) recreational programs. (SY)

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REPORT OF THE THIRD REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE INTEGRATION OF WOMEN INTO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

(Mexico City, Mexico, 8-10 August 1983)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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/I. ORGANIZATION

I. ORGANIZATION OF WORK

1. Place and date

1. The Third Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, convened by the Executive Secretary of ECLA to appraise the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action and with a view to the forthcoming World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, was held in Mexico City from 8 to 10 August 1983.

2. Attendance

2. The Conference was attended by representatives of the following member States of the Commission: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Spain, Suriname, the United Kingdom, the United States, Uruguay and Venezuela.

3. The following bodies of the United Nations Secretariat were also represented: the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, Department of Public Information, Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women.

4. Representatives of the following United Nations bodies also attended: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

5. In addition, the following specialized agencies of the United Nations were represented: International Labour Organisation (ILO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and World Health Organization/Pan-American Health Organization (WHO/PAHO).

6. Representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations also attended the Conference: Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Inter-American Commission of Women (ICW), Inter-American Institute for Co-operation on Agriculture (IICA), Organization of American States (OAS) and the Permanent Secretariat of the General Treaty on Central American Economic Integration (SIECA).

7. Also represented at the Conference were the following non-governmental organizations: Asociación Mexicana de Educación y Recreación (AMER), Catholic Relief Services, Confederation of Catholic Organizations for Charitable and Social International Action (CARITAS), Intercambios Culturales (AFS), International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), International Council of Women (ICW), International Federation of Women Lawyers, International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), International Social Service (ISS), Population Council, Unión

/Nacional de

Nacional de Mujeres Mexicanas, Women's International Democratic Federation, World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU), World Young Women's Christian Association (World YWCA), Young Men's Cristian Association (YMCA) and Zonta International/Zonta Mexico I.

3. Election of Officers

8. The Conference elected the following Officers:

President:	Mexico
Vice-presidents:	Ecuador
	Guyana
	Panama
Rapporteur:	Argentina

9. It was agreed to follow the procedure laid down in paragraph 88(2) of the Regional Plan of Action for the Integration of Women into Latin American Economic and Social Development, adopted at the eleventh special session of the Committee of the Whole of ECLA (21 November 1977), which states that: "The Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference will continue their functions until new ones are appointed and will be the link between governments and the secretariat of CEPAL in the field of women's integration in development".

4. Agenda

10. The Conference adopted the following agenda at its first plenary meeting:

1. Election of Officers.
2. Adoption of the provisional agenda.
3. Report of the President of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on the work completed since the Second Regional Conference.
4. Appraisal of the progress made in the fulfilment of mandates emerging from previous conferences on the subject of women:
   a) Regional Plan of Action for the Integration of Women into Latin American Economic and Social Development (E/CEPAL/1042/Rev.1);
   b) Programme of Action for the Second Half of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace;
   c) Other mandates.
5. Consideration of regional programmes and co-operation machinery concerning the integration of women into development, and their financing during the second half of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace.
6. Regional preparations for the forthcoming World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace.
7. Other business.
8. Consideration and adoption of the report.

5. Opening meeting

11. Speakers at the opening meeting included Mrs. Mercedes Pulido de Briceño, Minister of State for the Participation in Development (Venezuela) and outgoing President of the Conference; Mr. Enrique V. Iglesias, Executive Secretary of ECLA; Mrs. Chafika Sellami-Meslem, Under-Secretary-General for the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace; and Mr. Gerónimo Martínez García, Secretary-General of the National Population Council (CONAPO) of Mexico. Mr. Manuel Bartlett, Secretary of the Interior of Mexico, formally opened the work of the Third Conference and conveyed to all the participants the best wishes of the Government of Mexico for the successful outcome of their deliberations, stressing the importance his Government placed on the cause of women.

12. The outgoing President of the Regional Conference, after expressing her appreciation of the hospitality of the Government of Mexico, went on to stress the importance of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace in mobilizing the collective efforts of the peoples of the world as regards the problems of women and their status as a hidden subject of social change, as well as their pursuit of justice and equality, not only for themselves but for all social groups. She placed special emphasis on the link that existed between the cause of integration of women into development and the attainment of a more far-reaching democracy, together with the establishment or strengthening of pluralistic institutions within a framework of both economic and social development. She noted that the handling of the subject of women in our societies was marked by the ambiguity which stems from the resistance to any change in social and cultural relations, and observed that the transformation of Latin American societies was not a linear process, but rather one that involved convolutions and setbacks. However, she declared her faith in the progress of the integration process and pointed out that, at the national level, this meant not only the satisfaction of needs, but also the full expression of cultural diversity, and that advances were being made towards that goal. She referred to the need for a genuine and appropriate development model designed for Latin America, and stressed the common basis that existed for a Latin American identity and the challenge which that presented. Finally, she expressed her thanks for the collaboration of ECLA and for the support extended by the countries and by SELA to the Presiding Officers, as well as noting the importance placed on the integration of women into economic and social development in the new International Development Strategy.

13. The Executive Secretary of ECLA thanked the Government of Mexico for the logistical support it had made available to the ECLA Secretariat for holding the meeting, thus once again reaffirming its traditional co-operation with the work of the United Nations and its particular interest in the subject of women's participation in development.

14. The evolution of the topic of women, the Executive Secretary continued, had to be analysed from a historical perspective, in view of the ambivalence of the achievements and limitations of regional economic and social development in recent years. There had been an increase and diversification of production as well as substantial strides in education. However, there were still large marginalized groups which had not reached a minimal level of well-being which would guarantee them a decent and dignified existence.

/15. In

15. In this context of exclusion and frustration, he added, the problem of women in regional development had arisen throughout history. Progress had certainly been made: women had more access to education, and of the nearly six million young people attending universities, 40% were women; women had increased and altered their participation in the labour force (in the early 1950s nearly half of the female labour force was performing domestic jobs; today the greater percentage of this force was performing non-manual activities), and in political participation, women had been gaining ground and exercising their legitimate rights. There was still discrimination and exclusion, however, and much remained to be done.

16. He said, finally, that Latin America had to be prepared for a new type of development, recognizing that there was neither an abundance of financial resources nor any spectacular recovery of international prices, and that reactivation had to come fundamentally from within, based on internal efforts, achievement of greater efficiency in the use of scarce resources and the search for equitable criteria. In all of this, women had an active and immediate role to fulfill.

17. Mrs. Chafika Sellami-Meslem, after expressing her thanks to the Government of Mexico and the ECLA Secretariat, went on to refer to the advances made in the legal situation with regard to the integration of women into development. She noted that, although those were very important, they did not in themselves suffice to afford women full equality of opportunities and responsibilities. She questioned, moreover, whether the participation achieved by women to date in decision-making activities had led to any significant change in development trends. With regard to the economic aspect, she noted that the unequal distribution of benefits continued, and that women continued to bear a major share of the burden of economic difficulties and poor working conditions. In speaking of the World Conference of 1985, she pointed out that it would not only have to deal with the obstacles that had hindered the work of the Decade, but should also confront one of the most complex challenges of the future -the devising of new strategies. In that regard, she underlined the importance of the questionnaire sent to the countries for the purpose of gathering the information necessary for the elaboration of such new strategies and for defining a new stage in the tasks involved in the integration of women into development.

18. Mr. Gerónimo Martínez García noted the profound changes experienced by Mexico in the past fifty years, among which he stressed the extraordinary population growth, the deterioration of the environment and, in particular, the different situation in which women were living today. Whereas before they were forgotten and exploited, kept out of public life and denied intellectual preparation, Mexican women were now seeing their rights as workers, as well as their political equality with men, recognized in the constitution, and all forms of discrimination based on sex prohibited by law. These reforms were inspired and promoted by

/Mexican women

Mexican women themselves. As the Mexican people were opposed to special privileges, they had first consecrated the essential quality of men and women as a primary political principle, and later as a legal norm. He added that his Government had endorsed the ideals of Mexican women, as shown by the Mexican Programme of Action for the Incorporation of Women into Development.

19. The speaker ended by expressing his hope that the Conference would serve to provide greater clarity and renewed inspiration in dealing with the problem of the full integration of women into development, and contribute to better co-existence among all the men and women of the continent in order to enable them to work together to build the active peace based on justice and freedom to which the peoples of Latin America aspired.

6. Closing meeting

20. At the closing meeting, the Director of the Social Development Division of ECLA, speaking on behalf of the Executive Secretary, underscored the achievements of the Conference and the solidarity observed among the Latin American countries with regard to their common frames of reference concerning the subject of women. He also reported that the Commission would be informed about the activities and resolutions of the Conference at its twentieth session. Finally, he thanked the Government of Mexico for its hospitality and warm welcome, and expressed the Secretariat's appreciation to the delegations.

21. On behalf of the delegations, the representative of Colombia, Mrs. Cecilia Fernández de Pallini, stressed the importance of the work carried out at the Conference and called attention to the impact which it would have on the next World Conference.

22. Finally, before officially closing the Conference, the President emphasized the spirit in which the deliberations had been conducted and the importance attributed by the Latin American societies to the subject of women. He reaffirmed his personal commitment, and that of the Presiding Officers, to dedicating their utmost efforts to the performance of the tasks entrusted to them by the Conference.

/II. SUMMARY

II. SUMMARY OF THE DISCUSSIONS

Report of the President of the Presiding Officers on the work completed since the Second Regional Conference (agenda item 3)

23. Mrs. Mercedes Pulido de Briceño, outgoing President of the Presiding Officers, briefly summarized the tasks performed by the Officers since the Second Regional Conference, held in Macuto, Venezuela in 1979. She referred, first, to the support received for the functions of the ECLA Woman's Unit, stressing that it now had, in addition to its co-ordinator with headquarters in Santiago, co-ordinators for the Mexico City and Puerto España Offices, and was thereby able to support policies and programmes in accordance with the specific needs of the subregions. She also noted two special areas of action: the strengthening of national bodies formed to promote the participation of women in development, and the promotion of research, preparation of projects and inter-institutional support. She next mentioned the fourth meeting of the Presiding Officers, held in Quito, Ecuador in March 1981, and underscored the specific proposals that had emerged from that meeting for inclusion of the topic of women in the regional programme of the International Development Strategy of the Third United Nations Development Decade. Those proposals had been presented at the nineteenth session of ECLA, held in Montevideo in May 1981. Efforts had been made within that framework to integrate social objectives into the general development plan and thereby give them the effective support of economic policies.

24. She also recalled a meeting of experts regarding research on the topic of women held in San José, Costa Rica in 1982, at which a small commission linked to the International Union of University Chancellors was formed to promote and make more efficient use of academic and applied research. She next referred to the fifth meeting of the Presiding Officers, held 5 August 1983,*/ and stressed the desirability of promoting the research and studies of the ECLA Secretariat on the situation of women as well as of providing governments with more information about its work, which would contribute to the establishment of a closer link with national programme planning. She emphasized that there should be a joint approach to the subject in which the ECLA Secretariat should play a guiding role. She noted the concern of the Presiding Officers as regards the tasks to be performed by the governments in replying to the questionnaire which they had been sent as part of the preparatory activities for the forthcoming World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace. She also recalled that in the report of their fifth meeting, the Presiding Officers had recommended that these preparations should include, as necessary, meetings of experts and other activities which would provide the responses with a qualitative, as well as a quantitative, dimension in order to communicate adequately the differences existing among the actual situations observed in the region. She also mentioned the influence of the activities of the Presiding Officers, emphasizing the need for constant communication among the members and for

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*/ See the report of that meeting in document E/CEPAL/CRM.3/L.2.

/continuity in

continuity in their activities even when the people occupying those posts changed; in this regard, she indicated that the linkage with general development policies offered an opportunity for continuity. In closing, she again expressed her appreciation of the work donde by ECLA.

25. The President's report was approved as it stood.

Appraisal of the progress made in the fulfillment of mandated emerging from previous conferences on the subject of women (agenda item 4)

26. The Secretariat presented the following documents: "Report on the implementation and orientation of the ECLA Secretariat's activities on the integration of women into the economic and social development of Latin America" (E/CEPAL/CRM.3/L.3); "Women as participants: Reflections on their role in the family and in society" (E/CEPAL/CRM.3/L.4); "The legal situation of Latin American and Caribbean women as defined according to the resolutions and mandates of the United Nations system" (E/CEPAL/CRM.3/L.5); "Towards a regional information and communication strategy for women" (E/CEPAL/CRM.3/L.6); and "Latin America: Analysis of the social problems affecting women in various sectors" (E/CEPAL/CRM.3/L.7).*/

27. On the basis of the documents presented, the Secretariat highlighted the conceptual and policy aspects of appraising the progress made in the performance of the mandates emerging from previous conferences, briefly summarized the general programme of activities which had been carried out, and then specifically mentioned those corresponding to the Caribbean and Central America subregion.

28. It was first noted that the focal points of the evaluation were the relationship between women and the development situation in Latin America, the socio-cultural definition of the situation of women and the crucial role played by the current generation of young women in overcoming the contradictions affecting full participation by women.

29. The analysis of the situation of women pinpointed the dimensions of women as individuals and as members of the family group. In the first instance, it dealt with the progress made with regard to educational coverage, along with the qualitative deficiencies in education and the inappropriate image of women which was transmitted; the position of women in the labour market, including advances in the performance of non-manual activities, but also the persistence of employment in very low-paid informal services of very low social status; and participation in society and politics which, although it was steadily increasing, was still insufficient and was hindered both by traditional values and by its existing incompatabilities with family responsibilities.

30. In the second instance, the study emphasized the functions of the family and the limiting factors that stemmed from the unjust distribution of income and social services, as well as from the persistence of discrimination against women in laws and in behaviour patterns.

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*/ See the complete list of documents in the annex.

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31. In both instances, the general situation of women was differentiated from their specific situation at each level of society, and particular attention was called to the situation of rural women and women in low-income urban sectors, whose needs should be attended to on a priority basis.

32. With respect to young women, the report noted the potential for change of the societies, their greater training and the tension existing between their expectations and actual social conditions; this tension was aggravated by the negative social effects which the current economic crisis might have on employment and social services.

33. In its statement, the Secretariat reviewed the inclusion of women in planning, the incongruous legal situation with regard to the rights of individuals as compared to the rights of family members, and the possible contributions of an information system to the subject of women; this overall review was concluded with an evaluation of women's role in the creation of a development style characterized by greater equity, solidarity and innovations.

34. The Secretariat then referred to three significant events which had occurred since the Second Regional Conference, namely, the adoption of a Programme of Action for the Second Half of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace; the establishment of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade and, finally, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. These three events, the Secretariat stated, had contributed substantially to the legislative framework and to the guidelines for policies and programmes relating to women.

35. In accordance with the above-mentioned considerations, the Secretariat reported that the work programme on the integration of women into development had been carried out on the basis of a strategy which combined such aspects as training, advisory and technical assistance missions to the countries; collaboration and co-operation with Headquarters; specialized agencies and regional inter-governmental bodies; dissemination of information on women; and the organization of meetings for the exchange of experiences.

36. The main lines of action developed at the regional level within the ECLA work programme on women had been the following: a) the integration of women into social planning, which had included conceptual papers on the subject as well as subregional courses and meetings; b) the establishment of guidelines for technical assistance and financial policies, programmes and projects, in which the relationship with the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women had played a major part; c) research and appraisal activities and the preparation of diagnostic studies with a view to the establishment of objectives, strategies and policy measures which could exert an overall effect on social organization as a whole; and d) the strengthening of regional action, and especially the activities of national offices for women's affairs, through such means as training workshops, advisory missions on information and documentation, and regional technical co-operation in programmes for women.

/37. Lastly,

37. Lastly, the Secretariat called the attention of the governments to the work projections for the 1983-1985 period, and requested their orientation in that respect.

38. The Co-ordinator for the Mexico, Central America and Cuba subregion explained that a description of the work performed in that subregion was contained in the report which the Secretariat had presented. Owing to their importance, she stressed some specific examples, such as the training workshops (one in Panama on project preparation and one in Mexico on the training of rural women and families using radio schools); technical assistance missions to the countries; and the tasks involved in the co-ordination of activities with the organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations system.

39. The Co-ordinator for the Caribbeans noted that women, who had traditionally and historically been the most important social agent to emerge from the matrifocal family structure, had not only been displaced in that sense because of the new economic structures and the repercussions of the new division of labour at the international level, but had also been affected in such aspects as their income, health, nutrition and other related areas.

40. She added that the Secretariat of ECLA, through its technical assistance, training workshops and other activities, had sought to help regain that lost capacity and strengthen the historical potential of Caribbean women.

41. The delegations of the countries present referred to the advances being made in the fulfillment of the mandates from previous conferences on the subject of women. Among other matters (without going into the details of the documents prepared by each of the governments), they made reference to legislation, health, education, employment, housing, political participation, the image of women in the communications media and other related topics.

42. Particular emphasis was given at the meeting to the fact that, in view of the conditions of economic crisis which the Latin American societies currently were experiencing, the situation of women had to be examined in relation to those conditions, since its improvement closely depended on overcoming the present economic situation.

43. Many delegations agreed in pointing out the importance of the family as the basic unit of society. In that respect, they emphasized the measures taken in their respective countries, primarily as regards health and education. With regard to health, they placed special stress on mother and child care, oncological care, sexual education programmes and family planning and guidance; as regards education they underscored achievements at various levels, such as national literacy campaigns, programmes to ensure that women and girls remained within or returned to the educational system, job training programmes and, in some countries, the sharp increase in the number of university and post-graduate women. Within the area of education, some delegations called for the inclusion of curricula designed to show the need for egalitarian relations between the sexes, responsible procreation and other related aspects. Reference was also made to the revision of textbooks in order to eliminate references which implied

/discrimination against

discrimination against women, or inappropriate re-enforcement of traditional roles to the detriment of the full incorporation of women into development. In relation to women in the family, advances were also mentioned in housing, social security and other benefits, although several delegations mentioned the persistence of difficult situations in that regard.

44. Stress was laid on the significant increase in the participation of women in labour activities. In some countries, that increase was related to greater access to training and education; however, another strong influence was the economic need to contribute to the subsistence of the nuclear family, especially in those countries in which there was a large proportion of matrifocal families. It was stated that women's level of remuneration was usually lower in practice than that of men, despite the existence of egalitarian legislation in that regard in many countries. The case was also mentioned of women employed in very badly paid activities. who were excluded form all social benefits, such as in maquila subcontracting.

45. Various delegations noted that the economic crisis being suffered by the region and the world was primarily detrimental to women, who were the most affected by the problems of unemployment.

46. Another topic related to women's work performance which was dealt with at the meeting was that of social services, especially child care. Some delegations pointed out that the existence of a vast network of social services facilitated the incorporation of women into the paid labour force; others, however, observed that the lack of such services in their countries limited the opportunities for women to work outside the home. One delegation underlined the importance of co-ordination of the work of voluntary organizations in their efforts to improve the situation of women.

47. Several delegations referred to training programmes at various levels related to paid jobs for participant women, especially in agricultural administration and artisanal and cottage industries; in some countries, that type of programme was especially devoted to young mothers without job skills, while in others it extended to additional groups of women.

48. The delegations were interested in the subject of legislation, as nearly all of the countries had taken steps to modify their discriminatory legal provisions against women. In that respect, mention was made of the partial reform of the civil code of one country and the preparation of family codes in others. Other delegations referred to the need to change the provisions which affect the full capacity of married women. Among the legislative revisions in favour of women mentioned were these of equal rights for all children, born in or out of wedlock, and the codification of the rights of women with respect to consensual unions. Several delegations also referred to the facilities granted by law to mothers before and after childbirth, as well as during the period of nursing. Modifications of tax laws which in some countries protect women's property and wages were also mentioned, as well as changes in adoption laws.

/49. Some

49. Some delegations pointed out the modifications in their legislation signified by the ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

50. The delegations referred to the political participation of women in their countries, noting that as a general rule such participation had increased, in some countries significantly; the example was given of the case of countries with several women government ministers, and others where women hold high public administration and judicial posts or other offices, or who distinguish themselves as members of parliament or as political leaders. However, in nearly all cases, the need was stressed for futher increasing the participation of women in this sphere, particularly as regards trade unions. Several delegations emphasized the importance of the participation of women in popular, community-based organizations. There were also delegations, however, which mentioned that in their countries women only rarely rose to national and international posts.

51. Some delegations also mentioned the struggle by women to achieve the liberty of their countries as a factor which validated their participation in political and social life.

52. In the field of institutional policy, it was stressed that many Latin American governments had established special high-level agencies to deal with women's issues.

53. As for the communications media, many delegations emphasized the work done in their countries through the press, radio and television in disseminating educational and health-related information. They also pointed out several cases of concern on the part of governments to restrict or prevent the broadcasting of sexual or consumption stereotypes through these media.

54. Mention was also made of various research activities carried out on the subject of women both at research centres and national planning agencies.

55. Among the factors which hindered a greater integration of women into development, particular importance was attributed to the shortage of resources for the specific activities in that field and the lack of sufficient statistical data broken down by sex.

56. One delegation recommended that the recently appointed Co-ordinator for the Caribbean should establish a closer link with the actual situations of the subregional nations and promote the study of the possibility of re-allocating resources to favour the Caribbean countries.

57. Some delegations emphasized the role played by the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women, the Inter-American Commission of Women (IACW) and other governmental and non-governmental organizations.

58. The delegation of a developed country reaffirmed the commitment to support the full participation of women in economic development through its bilateral assistance programmes, observing that such assistance had nearly doubled since 1980; it also reaffirmed its support for the activities of the United Nations system concerning women.

/59. Two

59. Two delegations referred to the present world economic crisis and to threats to the peace of the region as factors which impeded social development and thus the incorporation of women into that development. They also expressed their support of the regional steps being taken to promote peace and the self-determination of peoples.

Consideration of regional programmes and co-operation machinery concerning the integration of women into development, and their financing during the second half of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace (agenda item 5)

60. In its presentation of item 5 the Secretariat reaffirmed that one of the strategic principles evolved by the United Nations for the implementation of development was technical co-operation. As regards the integration of women into development, that same strategy was an important contribution to the objectives of the Decade, and it strengthened the ties of solidarity among the countries as well as contributing to their collective self-confidence.

61. It was acknowledged that, although the regional technical co-operation strategy had not reached a thoroughly satisfactory level, serious efforts could be observed in that area. Mention was made, in that respect, of the various methods being used, both in the English-speaking Caribbean and Central America as well as in some other countries of the Andean region; reference was made to the Secretariat document "Towards a regional information and communication strategy for women", E/CEPAL/CRM.3/L.6.

62. The Secretariat identified those components of its work programme for the integration of women into development which constituted forms of technical co-operation, especially those related to information, documentation, training and research, the formulation and dissemination of social diagnostic methodologies and the development of appropriate conceptual frameworks to explain the diverse situations of women. Finally, the Secretariat noted that many technical co-operation efforts concerning women had been supported and promoted by the countries themselves and by the United Nations system (particularly the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women and the specialized agencies), as well as inter-governmental bodies, and non-governmental, regional and subregional organizations. Special mention was made of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the Women in Development Unit (WAND) of the University of the West Indies.

63. The representatives of a number of participating bodies (UNESCO, Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women, the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, UNFPA, CARICOM, CIM and ICW) referred to the regional programmes established during the United Nations Decade for Women, mentioning the progress made in formulating social policies; establishing national machinery; increasing opportunities for women of the region in education, employment and health; the increase in research and diagnostic studies on the most serious poverty situations among women; developing appropriate technologies for women in rural areas; promoting information activities for development; and fostering national projects on community participation in productive activities and the generation of income, training in basic skills, health and nutrition, etc.

/64. It

64. It was emphasized that the recognition of the advances made, especially since 1975, should be balanced by the analysis of the obstacles to and constraints on the full implementation of the objectives of the Decade. Some of the factors mentioned were the still insufficient technical and financial resources available to the regional programmes; the difficulties associated with the follow-up and appraisal of the main activities aimed at the integration of women; and the problems stemming from the region's critical economic situation, which resulted in fewer employment and educational opportunities for women. Finally, emphasis was placed upon the growing need which existed at the regional level to identify the strategies for employment, education, health, political participation and legislation which would have to be adopted by the year 2000 within the framework of the Decade.

65. The representative of the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women noted that the Fund had already channelled a total of US$ 4.6 million to the support of some 80 activities in the ECLA region. She added that an evaluation was currently being conducted in close collaboration with ECLA and the other regional commissions of all of the Fund's work since 1978, and that three institutional levels had already been identified on which efforts to strengthen national capacity should be concentrated: development planning, national machinery, and co-operation with governments and non-governmental organizations.

66. The representative went on to state that the General Assembly had decided that the Fund should be continued after the end of the Decade, but that there would be little point in such a continuation without sufficient funds. In its study of the matter, the Advisory Committee had noted that a broad base of contribution pledges from the member States -even if they were merely symbolic amounts- could encourage additional contributions on a larger scale; it was therefore hoped that a great many developing countries would pledge annual contributions to the Fund, since the future of the Fund was in the hands of the developing countries represented at the Conference.

Regional preparations for the forthcoming World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace (agenda item 6)

67. Item 6 of the agenda was presented by the Secretariat, which reported its participation in the first session of the Commission on the Legal and Social Status of Women, a preparatory body for the World Conference. On that occasion, the Commission had approved the prvisional agenda of the Conference, the substantive portion of which covered the following items: a) critical review and appraisal of the progress made and the obstacles encountered in the attainment of the goals and objectives of the Decade, and b) future-oriented strategies of implementation for the advancement of women up to the year 2000, and specific measures to overcome obstacles to the attainment of the objectives of the Decade. National, regional and international studies on both of these subjects would be conducted in accordance with the information gathered from the questionnaire to be completed by the governments.

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68. The Secretariat also informed the Conference of the approval during the above-mentioned meeting of the documentation for the 1985 World Conference, which would include a report containing the conclusions and recommendations of the five preparatory regional intergovernmental meetings organized by the regional commissions of the United Nations.

69. The Under-Secretary-General of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace continued the presentation of item 6, stressing the need for the women's offices in the countries of the region to participate in the work of replying to the questionnaire on the review and appraisal of the achievements and obstacles of the Decade which the general secretariat of the Conference would be sending to the governments. Obtaining reliable replies as regards the information requested in the questionnaire would make it possible to modify the strategies presently under way and to devise more appropriate policies and programmes for achieving the objectives of the Decade, and would also contribute to improving the design of future-oriented strategies of implementation for the advancement of women up to the year 2000.

70. The representatives of the countries referred to the obstacles to conducting the national and regional appraisals required by the World Conference which had been encountered in the region. In particular, they noted the diminished human resources available in most of the women's offices and the limitations of the statistical information system -which had become more dramatic due to the regional and world economic crisis. Nevertheless, there was a general acknowledgement that, despite the countries' reduced capacity in relation to women's programmes, combined efforts were necessary in order to appraise the achievements and obstacles of the Decade.

71. In that respect, some countries reported that national commissions had been established to promote preparatory activities for the World Conference and that meetings had been held on specific topics of the Decade.

72. Some countries expressed their desire to hold a regional preparatory meeting to appraise the achievements made and obstacles encountered in the implementation of the objectives of the Decade. In that respect, the representative of one country offered to host the meeting. Other alternatives suggested were a meeting of experts or an extended meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference.

73. The representative of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) thanked ECLA for the opportunity to express her solidarity with Latin American women and to report on ECA's activities. She referred to the main ideas of the women's programme in that Commission within the framework of a strategy based on the collective self-confidence of the African continent. She stressed the key importance of human resources in development, pointing out the fact that those resources were mainly made up of women, and thus women's issues were of the utmost importance in relation to development; she also recalled women's role as the educator of new generations and warned against the effects of implementing plans and projects which did not take due account of the women's dimension. She referred briefly to the progress made in her region in the integration of women into development and cordially invited the Latin American region to participate in the African preparatory conference for the World Conference of 1985.

/Consideration of

Consideration of the draft resolutions

74. The Conference considered and approved by consensus 12 draft resolutions */ on the following topics: Some Guidelines for Regional and National Actions Aimed at Improving the Status of Women, submitted by Venezuela and Argentina; Short-term Measures to Promote Integration of Women in Development, submitted by Dominica and Guyana; Integration of Peasant Women in Development, submitted by Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico and Nicaragua; Peace in Central America for the Integration of Women into Development, submitted by Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru and Venezuela; Preservation of Peace in the Region, submitted by Colombia; Continuation of Activities to Promote the Integration of Women into Development beyond the Decade, submitted by Colombia; Future for the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women, submitted by Dominica and Jamaica; Co-ordinators of the Women's Programme in the Mexico, Central America and Cuba subregion and in the Caribbean subregion, submitted by Cuba, Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Jamaica; Women's Contribution to Family Income, submitted by Colombia; Financial and Technical Support for Specific Programmes, submitted by Dominica and Jamaica; Review of Educational Texts and Programmes, submitted by Costa Rica; Recreational Programmes, also submitted by Costa Rica.

Submission of the report of the Conference

75. The Rapporteur submitted a partial draft report of the Conference and informed the participants that, in accordance with the practices of ECLA, the complete draft report would be sent to them from the headquarters in Santiago, with an indication of a time period -usually one month- within which their observations should be sent to the Secretariat. After that period had elapsed, the Secretariat would issue the final report.

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*/ The texts of the approved resolutions are contained in section III of this report.

III. RESOLUTIONS

76. At its last working meeting the Conference adopted the following resolutions:

1. SOME GUIDELINES FOR REGIONAL AND NATIONAL ACTIONS AIMED AT IMPROVING THE STATUS OF WOMEN

The Third Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recalling the mandates and resolutions contained in: the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year (Mexico, 1975); the Regional Plan of Action for the Integration of Women into Latin American Economic and Social Development (Havana, 1977); the Programme of Action for the Second Half of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace (Copenhagen, 1980); the Second Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America (Macuto, Venezuela, 1979), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, and evaluations made during the United Nations Decade for Women,

Considering that despite the progress made, there remain profound social inequities and discriminatory values obstructing women's integration into development,

Taking into account that the present crisis being undergone by the region, aggravated by international economic problems, has an especially serious effect on the participation of women in this integration,

Recognizing women as protagonists in the quest for new styles of development and as agents of innovative change in the direction of more just forms of social organization,

Convinced that the solving of current problems constitutes a challenge to the region which requires the establishment of new formulas based on democracy and participation of women promoting solidarity and friendship among the countries of the region,

1. Recommends to the governments that they:

a) increase the levels of participation of women in decision-making processes that transcend local levels;

b) consider the family as a basic unit, subject and object of overall policies which ensure the satisfaction of their needs and aspirations and the improvement of their living conditions, with special emphasis on cultural and educational training;

c) redefine the responsibilities of each member of the couple and those assigned to the remaining members of the family so as to reflect equality and equity between sexes, their right to make a free and informed decision as to procreation and their relationship with their children, based on training them to become persons capable of making decisions;

d) formulate social policies based on a more equitable distribution of income that are designed to generalize the infrastructure established to attend to the fundamental needs of low-income women and families, particularly as regards health, education and employment;

e) ensure the effective equality, guaranteed by law, of men and women as individuals and as family members, and support the dissemination among the population of information on the significance of such legislation in local practice;

f) promote and support, as appropriate, a change in the stereotyped image of women in society, beginning with the image transmitted by educational systems and including the one presented by the mass media, with a view to emphasizing the importance of women as individuals;

g) provide incentives for the participation of women in remunerative work, giving increased attention in educational processes to the types of training that would enable women to engage in a wide variety of occupations, and encourage women to pursue studies in areas other than those involving traditional activities;

2. Recommends to ECLA that it:

a) continue to conduct research and prepare studies and diagnoses aimed at providing more in-depth knowledge of the situation of women in the region, especially as regards their dual relationship with the family structure and with the conditions and incentives created for their participation in education, health, employment and social and political organizations, and with special emphasis on young women, with a view to the forthcoming Regional Meeting on Youth;

b) disseminate amongst the countries of the region the results of its studies directed towards the establishment of the relevant policy guidelines;

c) consider, in consultation with the governments, the possibility of preparing national, subregional or regional programmes for training and providing skills to women, with special emphasis on education, employment and health;

d) continue its activities in the training of middle- and high-level technical personnel for the countries, with a view to the exchange of experience, the establishment of methodologies and the inclusion of the situation of women in global social development programmes;

e) stress the need to prepare a general plan of regional review and appraisal corresponding to the second half of the Decade.

2. SHORT-TERM MEASURES TO PROMOTE THE INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT

The Third Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean,

Considering the goals and objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women, which seek to promote the economic and social development of member States through the full and active participation of women at all levels of society,

Acknowledging the need in all member States for the implementation of measures to achieve these goals,

Recalling the affirmation by member States of their support for the United Nations Decade for Women,

Recognizing the serious international economic recession which has adversely affected progress in the achievement of the goals of the United Nations Decade for Women at the national, regional and international level,

Acknowledging the initial measures implemented by member States which have supported actions at the national level,

Fully appreciating the magnitude of the scope of the Programme of Action for the Second Half of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace and the need for further concentrated efforts in every aspect of the economic, social and political life of member States,

1. Urges member governments to give realistic support to the United Nations Decade for Women through the strengthening of the established national machinery, made potentially more effective by the specific provision of budgetary allocations for adequate personnel and programmes;

2. Further urges member States which have not yet done so to ratify the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, to effect the necessary legal provisions to give effect to the Convention, and to fulfil the obligations to report to the United Nations Committee monitoring the status of implementation of the Convention;

3. Calls upon member States to honour their commitment to suscribe to United Nations funding sources, thereby increasing the level of funding available to national and regional agencies for the implementation of programmes relating to the United Nations Decade for Women;

4. Stresses the need for the promotion of women to the highest levels of decision-making in all the regional and international agencies working for the promotion of the integration of women in development;

5. Specifies the inclusion, where applicable, of a "women-in-development" component in the formulation and implementation of all programmes and projects, as a condition for their funding.

3. INTEGRATION OF RURAL WOMEN INTO DEVELOPMENT

The Third Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean,

Considering that the Declaration of Mexico on the Equality of Women and their Contribution to Development and Peace (1975) established that:

a) Equality between men and women means equality of their dignity and value as human beings, as well as equality of rights, opportunities and responsibilities,

b) States should make the necessary changes in their economic and social policies to permit the integration of women into development, as it is their right to participate in and contribute to development,

Considering also that the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, held in Copenhagen in 1980, established that the presence of rural and peasant women is necessary in the development process and stressed the importance of satisfying the specific needs of the rural world, and particularly those of women in rural areas,

Bearing in mind that the peasant women of the region should participate in the development of each country as protagonists in social demands and agents of their own transformation,

1. Recommends governments to:

a) promote such legal reforms and agrarian policies as may be necessary in the countries, with a view to securing access by peasant women to land holding, productive inputs and employment;

b) prepare and implement integrated rural development programmes that provide for specific action in which peasant women participate, in accordance with their perceived needs and the level of socio-economic development of their communities;

2. Recommends ECLA to review and promote the strategies established on the basis of the decisions and resolutions of the United Nations conferences on women in order to fulfil their objectives of establishing legislation to guarantee the right of women wage earners to work and to the enjoyment of working conditions and social benefits which support them as mothers and workers;

3. Recommends the bodies of the United Nations system, and in particular the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, as well as the International Labour Organisation, to examine their financing policies and priorities with special regard to their programmes of action for women in order that more resources may be allocated to programmes for women in rural and agricultural zones during the next five years;

4. Recommends the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference to serve as the formal vehicle for transmission of this resolution, through the appropriate channels, to the World Conference to be held at Nairobi in 1985.

4. PEACE IN CENTRAL AMERICA FOR THE INTEGRATION OF WOMEN INTO DEVELOPMENT

The Third Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean,

Considering that since the Second Regional Conference, held in 1979, the crisis in the Central American region has become worse and that this has had a direct impact on the situation of women, making their integration into economic and social development more difficult,

Further considering the persistent violation of basic human rights, which affects the physical and psychological integrity of the women of the area,

Taking into account also that the rural and urban female population has suffered directly through loss of lives, family disintegration and destruction of its heritage,

Bearing in mind that violence has taken its toll on the family unit, resulting in the disappearance or scattering of its members,

Acknowledging that the young women of the region are witnessing a reduction in their opportunities for access to economic and social development, and

Considering also that the aggravation of the tensions in Central America could provoke the spread of violence in the region and that only a peaceful and negotiated solution to the conflicts can ensure the authentic economic and social development to which its people aspire,

1. Expresses its concern for the situation of human rights in the region and requests the governments to ensure their full exercise;

2. Urges the Central American countries to resolve their differences on the basis of the fundamental principles of international law;

3. Requests ECLA to make every effort to contribute by all possible means to achieving the integration of women into development in the Central American region;

4. Expresses its resolute support of the steps taken by the Contadora Group in its quest for the pacification of the Central American region.

5. PRESERVATION OF PEACE IN THE REGION

The Third Regional Conference on the integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean,

Mindful of the example set by the women of the region in resolving their ideological differences,

Recommends to States that, with a view to preserving peace in the region, they should resolve their controversies by peaceful means, and in all cases in accordance with the principles and procedures set forth by international law.

6. CONTINUATION OF ACTIVITIES TO PROMOTE THE INTEGRATION OF WOMEN INTO DEVELOPMENT BEYOND THE END OF THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR WOMEN

The Third Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean,

Considering that ECLA's activities in its area of action have had positive results in achieving the goals proposed by the United Nations General Assembly,

Taking into account that the integration of women into economic and social development is an irreversible historical fact and clearly beneficial both to women themselves and to all mankind,

Also considering that women have effectively assumed the responsibilities which fall to them, both to their own benefit and to that of their families, society, their cultures, the economies of their countries and the higher standard of living of human beings,

Bearing in mind that the technical diagnoses made and solutions proposed at the regional conferences organized by ECLA have helped in the activities of women in the region aiming at the final implementation of the Regional Plan of Action for the Integration of Women into Latin American Economic and Social Development adopted by the member States,

1. Requests the United Nations General Assembly, through ECLA at its twentieth session, to support the continuation beyond the end of the Decade for Women of ECLA's activities with regard to their integration into economic and social development;

2. Also requests the General Assembly, through ECLA at its twentieth session, to allocate sufficient funds to permit the continuation and expansion of ECLA's programmes in this area.

7. FUTURE OF THE VOLUNTARY FUND FOR THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR WOMEN

The Third Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recalling that the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women was established by the General Assembly as the only international fund created to provide technical and financial assistance to strengthen the integration of women into the economic and social development of their countries,

Noting the innovative and catalytic nature of the activities stimulated, promoted, supported and executed with resources from the Voluntary Fund, through governments, non-governmental organizations, ECLA and other organizations linked in particular with development planning, the strengthening of national machinery, training, assistance in self-reliance for poor rural and urban women, and other related activities,

Taking into account the support given to the Voluntary Fund by member States,

Taking into account also that the development of the Voluntary Fund since its establishment in 1976, in terms of the consolidation and streamlining of its operative aspects, the magnitude of its support to activities involving and benefiting women, and the flexibility of its criteria as regards the special needs of the subregions, has resulted in considerably improved conditions in the lives of the women of the region,

Recommends that ECLA member States should continue to support the Voluntary Fund, especially seeking to ensure its stability and continuity by contributing even symbolic donations.

8. CO-ORDINATORS OF THE WOMEN'S PROGRAMME IN THE MEXICO/ CENTRAL AMERICA/CUBA SUBREGION AND THE CARIBBEAN SUBREGION

The Third Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean,

Considering the need to provide the countries of the region with greater technical assistance and guidance with respect to programmes, promotion and research on the subject of women,

Bearing in mind the need for the systematic maintenance of this type of guidance and assistance in order to help fulfil the objectives of the Regional Plan of Action and the programme of the ECLA Unit for the Integration of Women into Latin American Economic and Social Development,

1. Urges ECLA to maintain the posts of co-ordinators for the Mexico/Central America/Cuba subregion and for the Caribbean subregion;

2. Requests ECLA to seek financial support for these posts by means of extrabudgetary contributions.

9. WOMEN'S CONTRIBUTION TO FAMILY INCOME

The Third Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean

Considering that the economic problems of the region have direct repercussions on the family,

Considering also that working women contribute nearly all their own income for the benefit of the entire family,

Bearing in mind that women's work today is not a supplement to the family income but rather an essential factor in the family's subsistence,

Bearing in mind also that an extremely high percentage of women are heads of households,

1. Urges governments to eliminate all forms of wage inequalities between men and women;

2. Requests governments to devote resources to economic inputs and basic infrastructure to make possible the economic activation of areas under the responsibility of women, both rural and urban;

3. Suggests that governments study the use of the economic income provided by women working outside the home in order that ECLA may consider including in its programme of work as complete a regional study on the subject as possible, for later transmission to the Economic and Social Council, heads of State, ministers of labour and entities concerned with women's labour in Latin America and the Caribbean.

10. FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT FOR SPECIFIC PROGRAMMES

The Third Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean,

Considering the increasing incidence in the region of pregnancies in teen-age girls,

Aware of the serious socio-economic problems which arise for young adults, particularly women, who have sole responsibility for bringing up these children,

Considering further the inter-relationship between the fertility behaviour of women and their role and status in the family and society,

1. Supports the call for all agencies to take special measures in favour of young women as an important strategy of the Programme of Action for the second half of the United Nations Decade for Women;

2. Urges the ECLA Secretariat to recommend to member governments the need for special programmes of education for young people, both women and men, related to family planning and the provision of services when needed;

3. Requests the relevant United Nations specialized agencies, in particular the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), to provide financial and technical support for such programmes in accordance with national population policies and development programmes.

11. REVIEW OF EDUCATIONAL TEXTS AND PROGRAMMES

The Third Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean,

Considering that educational programmes and texts in some respects reaffirm the differentiation of activities by sex, thus impeding the full development of women on an equal footing with men,

Recalling the relevant provisions of the World Plan of Action, of the Regional Plan of Action for the Integration of Women into Latin American Economic and Social Development, of the Programme of Action for the Second Half of the Decade, and of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women,

Recommends governments which have not yet done so, and when applicable, to establish appropriate machinery in each country for the review of textbooks and educational curricula and to propose changes in them so as to ensure that they do not reaffirm the distribution of family and societal tasks on the basis of sex.

12. RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMES

The Third Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean,

Considering that every human being should have access to recreation and sports and the State should promote these activities so that they fulfil a broad social function and contribute to the physical and cultural development of the individual,

Recommends government offices and non-governmental organizations responsible for programmes for women and the family to design recreational projects based on rest and recreation periods and on the beneficial use of free time.

Annex

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Working documents

E/CEPAL/CRM.3/L.1	Agenda
E/CEPAL/CRM.3/L.2	Report of the Fifth Meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean
E/CEPAL/CRM.3/L.3/Add.1	Report on the implementation and orientation of ECLA Secretariat's activities on the integration of women into the economic and social development of Latin America
E/CEPAL/CRM.3/L.4	Women as participants: reflections on their role in the family and in society
E/CEPAL/CRM.3/L.5	The legal situation of women in Latin America and the Caribbean defined according to the resolutions and mandates of the United Nations system. Volume I - Basis, proposals, methodology and information analysis
E/CEPAL/CRM.3/L.5/Add.1	The legal situation of Latin American and Caribbean women as defined according to the resolutions and mandates of the United Nations system. Volume II - File sheets of resolutions on the legal situation of women
E/CEPAL/CRM.3/L.6	Towards a regional information and communication strategy for women
E/CEPAL/CRM.3/L.7	Latin America: Analysis of the social problems affecting women in various sectors